

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 8 SYRIAN MEDIA STRIKE MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE
ON LEBANON

1. SEPT. 8 AL-BAATH LED WITH FOLLOWING HEADLINE: "OPTIMISM
DOMINATES VARIOUS QUARTERS WITH APPROACHING RELAXATION OF
LEBANESE CRISIS. ACTIVITIES OF DAMASCUS BEING CONDUCTED
IN CALMNESS AND CONFIDENCE. COMMITTEE OF ARAB FOREIGN
MINISTERS TO PREPARE ATMOSPHERE FOR HOLDING NEXT SUMMIT
CONFERENCE." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE STATED THAT EFFORTS WERE
BEING INTENSIFIED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF SYRIAN DESIRE FOR
CASEFIRE AND SOLUTION TO CRISIS AND ALSO WITHIN FRAMWORK
OF ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS TO FIND COMMON GROUND AMONG PARTIES
TO CONFLICT.

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2. OTHER ARTICLES MEANWHILE NOTED WIRE SERVICE

REPORTS OF INCREASED FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, IN JEBAL LUBNAN AND ON THE ZGHORTA-TRIPOLI FRONT.

3. BOTH AL-BAATH AND AL-THAWRAH CONTAINED LENGTHY REPORTS ON RETURN OF PREVIOUS EVACUEES TO NABAA AND DESCRIBED IT AS "FIRST STEP TOWARD NORMAL LIFE IN LEBANON." ARTICLES STRESSED THAT SYRIA HAD EXERTED GREAT EFFORTS TO ASSURE RETURN OF THESE EVACUEES AS STEP TOWARD PREVENTING PARTITION AND REESTABLISHING SECURITY.

4. THERE WERE FRONT-PAGE REPORTS OF MEETING OF "PROGRESSIVE AND NATIONAL FORCES AND PARTIES (SHATILA)" IN CHTAURA SEPT. 7. MEETING EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVE, CONDEMNED PARTITION PRACTICES BY LEFTIST PRETENDERS AND FORMED COMMITTEE TO ASSIST INHABITANTS AND COMBAT HORDING.

5. PRESS REPORTED THAT AS PART OF PRES. ASAD'S POLICY TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO LEBANESE BROTHERS. MIN OF TRANSPORT HAD ISSUED DIRECTIVE PERMITTING LEBANESE TRUCKS IN SYRIA TO TRANSPORT GOODS OF PUBLIC SECTOR WITHIN SYRIA AND PERMITTING LEBANESE PRIVATE CARS AND TAXIS TO OPERATE IN SYRIA.

6. MIN OF INTERIOR DABBAGH RECEIVED DELEGATION FROM TRIPOLI HEADED BY DEPUTY HASIM AL-HUSSEINI WHICH PRAISED SYRIA'S POSITION TOWARD LEBANESE CRISIS.

7. INTERESTING ARTICLE IN AL-BAATH CONTAINED FOLLOWING QUOTE" "ONCE AGAIN DAMASCUS IS EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH LEBANESE FACTIONS TO FIND A COMMON GROUND AMONG THEM AND TO SECURE THEIR AGREEMENT ON ROLE DAMASCUS IS PLAYING TO END WAR, LIQUIDATE ITS TRACES AND BEGIN REGIME OF PRESIDENT-ELECT YHRKIS IN ATMOSPHERE OF CALMNESS AND SECURITY WHICH WOULD PERMIT ALL PARTIES TO LAY FOUNDATION FOR BUILDING NEW LEBANON...IN TRAGEDY OF LEBANON, SYRIA HAS SUFFERED MUCH IN TERMS BOTH OF MEN AND OF ENERGY. IT HAS SHARED WITH BROTHER LEBANON THE MOUNTING LOSSES AND BURDENS BECAUSE OF ITS GEORGRAPHIC SITUATION WHICH HAS IMPOSED UPON THE TWO COUNTRIES A SINGLE LIFE AND FUTURE. REVOLUTIONARY SYRIA SEEKS ONLY LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY. IT IS SEEKING A LEBANON UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPABLE OF DENFENDING ITSELF AND SOLIDLY UNITED WITH THE CONFRONTATION FRONTS IN ORDER TO REPEL AGGRESSION AND FOIL SCHEMES OF OCCUPATION AND EXPANSION. THIS GOAL REQUIRES, FIRST, STOPPING CHRONIC BLEEDING AND SINENCING GUNS AS STEP TOWARD LAYING FOUNDATION FOR REBUILDING. OBVIOUSLY, BEGINNING OF TERM OF PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS OPENS OPPORTUNITY TO TURN OVER PAGE OF WAR, RESCUE LEBANON AND RESTORE NORMAL LIFE."

8. SYRIAN AFTERNOON NEWS BROADCAST REPORTED ARRIVAL OF CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND DELEGATION IN LATE MORNING. IN AIRPORT STATEMENT, CHAMOUN NOTED HIS PLEASURE IN VISITING DAMASCUS, WHICH HE HAD LAST VISITED TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO. EVERY LEBANESE CONSIDERS SYRIA HIS SECOND COUNTRY, CHAMOUN SAID, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SYRIAN INITIATIVE WOULD PRODUCE END TO LEBANESE CRISIS AND RETURN OF SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON. CHAMOUN AND PRES. ASAD BEGAN THEIR MEETINGS IN EARLY AFTERNOON.
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